



**MINUTES  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
June 6, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

**Present:** Mayor: Charlie Miner; Council: Jahn Dyvik, Mike Feldmann, Gina Joyce, and Deirdre Kvale

**Staff Present:** City Administrator: Scott Weske; City Clerk Moeller; City Attorney Thames; Public Works Director Diercks

**Absent:** None

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**MAYOR'S COMMENTS – LONG LAKE NEWS, MEETING REVIEW AND UPDATES**

Mayor Miner offered the following comments and updates:

The City Council had met in a work session prior to the regular meeting during which they had discussed matters pertaining to the Fire Department.

The three Memorial Day observances that took place in the City at Union Cemetery, St. George's Cemetery, and the Nelson Lakeside Park Veterans Memorial were well attended. Mayor Miner gave thanks to members of the community who put together those events and to the Public Works Department for placing the American flags out in the downtown area. He also recognized the Long Lake Garden Club for their work to clean up gardens around the monument sign areas in time for Memorial Day.

Lastly, he reported that the Long Lake Fire Department had assisted the Loretto Fire Department with a house fire last night.

**APPROVE AGENDA**

*A motion was made by Dyvik, seconded by Joyce, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: all.*

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The Consent Agenda consisted of:

- A. Approve Minutes of May 16, 2023 City Council Work Session Meeting
- B. Approve Minutes of May 16, 2023 City Council Meeting
- C. Approve Vendor Claims and Payroll
- D. Confirm Staff's Appointment of Michael Decker and Tyse Feldmann to the position of Season Public Works Maintenance Worker for the City of Long Lake
- E. Adopt Resolution No. 2023-25 Approving Issuance of Special Event Permit #2023-05 for Buckhorn Days 2023 to be held July 22, 2023; Approve Issuance

Council member Joyce questioned whether the event applicant had received what they needed to with relation to Police presence for Buckhorn Days.

City Clerk Moeller replied that one of the conditions of approval is that the event organizer contact the Police Chief in order to arrange for the hours recommended for coverage. The Police Department may be willing to exchange the cost of Police presence for booth space to allow for a public outreach opportunity at Buckhorn Days.

Council member Feldmann noted that he is related to one of the proposed seasonal Public Works Maintenance Workers to be approved for hiring under the Consent Agenda and would be abstaining from voting.

*A motion was made by Miner, seconded by Dyvik, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Ayes: Kvale, Dyvik, Miner and Joyce. Abstained: Feldmann. Motion carried.*

## **OPEN CORRESPONDENCE**

No one was in attendance to address the City Council during Open Correspondence.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **LMCC Member Survey and Discussion of the Future of the LMCC – Jim Lundberg, LMCC Operations Manager**

Jim Lundberg, LMCC, provided an overview of the LMCC services past and present, and reviewed how their organization's operations have been funded in the past. He described the challenges the LMCC has faced with funding based on the market changes due to the trend of people 'cutting the cord'. He recalled that they had held a cable summit in March of 2023 to discuss the impact of cord cutting on the LMCC's funding model. He presented a three option survey to the Council with Option A representing member cities participating in LMCC funding; Option B being selling of the building owned by the LMCC and officing out of a member city's location while a long-term funding solution is sought; or Option B being dissolution of the LMCC. He reviewed the actions and activities that the member cities would have to take on if the LMCC were to dissolve.

With regard to amounts forecasted to be funded by member cities as the LMCC's budget shortfall continues, Mayor Miner asked about potential price decreases that could be realized if there were newly added member cities.

Mr. Lundberg responded that there has been no active forward momentum with Tonka Bay and he does not think arrangements with Mound will progress; however, if there were another city or two that decided to join and become member cities, that would help reduce the costs for all the member cities. If another cable subscriber came into the area, that would also help reduce the costs.

Council member Dyvik asked why the cable companies weren't doing anything to become more competitive with the streaming services.

Mr. Lundberg replied that their main concern was providing internet and noted that Mediacom does not appear to have any desire to change their business model, despite the growth of cord cutting.

Moeller commented that from a staff perspective, she would have nothing but good things to say about the services that LMCC has provided for the City. She recognized that this is a big financial decision, but explained that her recommendation in the staff report for the Council to consider selecting Option A came from a place of support for the LMCC as she did not want to see them go away.

Council member Kvale noted that she serves on the Budget Committee for the LMCC and feels it has been documented that Mr. Lundberg runs a very tight ship financially. She believes the services that the City receives from the LMCC have been provided very economically.

Mr. Lundberg agreed that the LMCC is very careful with how they spend their money and indicated their organization tries to get the most bang for their buck.

The Council discussed the various funding options that are available related to the LMCC.

*A motion was made by Miner, seconded by Kvale, to respond to LMCCs Member Survey, ranking Option A as 1, Option B as 2, and Option C as 3. Ayes: all.*

Council member Dyvik added that he is in support of Option A as being the best option, unless a bunch of member cities drop out of the LMCC. Were that to occur, he would want the Council to be able to revisit their support.

Mr. Lundberg mentioned that was why they were asking the member cities to return ranked choices within their voting on survey responses.

Council members considered various funding scenarios in the event different choices are made by other cities.

Mr. Lundberg assured the Council that if there were a situation where many member cities voted for Option C and decided to drop the LMCC, then they would come back to the other member cities with recalculated data. The survey response action was not intended to lock the City in and is simply to help guide the LMCC in moving forward with potential changes.

*Ayes: all.*

### **Discuss 2023 City Street and Park Area Seal Coating Project and Consider Project Bid Award**

City Administrator Weske reviewed the proposed 2023 City Street and Park Area Seal Coating Project including to include seal coating Glendale Drive, Watertown Road, Orchard Lane, Apple Glen Road, the Dexter Drive cul-de-sac, and the Stoneridge cul-de-sac. He noted that the proposal received came in a bit over the budgeted amount. He gave an overview of recent budgeting as part of the Pavement Management Plan, and described the type of material to be used as part of the seal coating program.

Council member Dyvik suggested that Public Works Director Diercks take a look at the roads in the project scope before the seal coating is begun in order to ensure that there is not any spray patching that should take place first.

Mayor Miner asked about the grooves on various City roads that seem to be showing up more frequently and inquired whether they were being caused by the plows.

Weske replied that they can double check the equipment, and provided information on how the plow blade equipment functions.

Mayor Miner requested staff check into that further to ensure that something isn't broken or needs to be replaced that may be damaging roadways. He questioned why the two specific cul-de-sacs were referenced in the project scope and whether the project would include the entire streets.

Weske stated that based on the square footage, he assumed that the entire streets would be included with the cul-de-sacs.

*A motion was made by Dyvik, seconded by Miner, to award the 2023 Street Seal Coating Project to "Pearson Bros., Inc." of Hanover, MN and authorize the City Administrator to execute an agreement for the completion of the project at a total project cost of \$65,931.60, and direct staff to confirm that the cul-de-sac work will include the entirety of the streets. Ayes: all.*

### **Selection and Approval of New City Logo(s)**

Council member Joyce recalled that the Council has been talking about the desire to update the City's website, and staff and Council had decided that it would also be a good time to refresh the City logo before that update gets underway. She gave a presentation that began with sharing details of the background and experience of Graphic Designer, Sherry Jablonski. Council member Joyce and Moeller commented on examples of the information and pictures that were shared with Ms. Jablonski to assist in inspiring the development of a new City logo.

Council member Joyce asked that the Council not comment on their preferred logo as options are reviewed, but rather wait to vote via post-it note before any discussion begins.

A member of the audience asked why the City needed a new logo and who would be paying for all the changes.

Mayor Miner responded that the City currently has two logos in use and they wanted to unify them into one logo with something closer to reflecting the City's actual identity. He stated that it had been some time since the primary logo was originally created.

Moeller explained that the logo that is currently used is well over 20 years old and there are many places throughout the City where its physical appearance is aging and degrading, for example, on garbage cans. The City is at a point where they need to start replacing some of these things regardless of whether it is done with an old logo or a new one. She also added that the City's current website has become wildly outdated in its format, so they will be implementing a new website that is organized in a more efficient, modern format that will allow more information to be made available. A significant portion of the design of a new website would be informed by the City's logo. She reflected that the City has been talking about a redesign for years, and has now come to a point where things have to be replaced, providing for an opportunity to update the logo before doing so. She noted that the work done on the last rebranding effort did not involve staff and she believes that the company involved had not been in touch with the City's true identity. She emphasized that the work done by Ms. Jablonski has been much more reflective of Long Lake than the past efforts, which were also much more expensive.

Council member Joyce revealed three final design options and asked those present to write their top choice on the post-it note and then place their vote in the basket provided. All City staff members and a few from the Police Department have already come in and had an opportunity to place their votes on their favorite iteration of the logo.

Moeller clarified that they truly welcome anyone's input and encouraged meeting attendees to vote for a logo design whether they are Long Lake residents or not. Moeller mentioned that Weske had also raised the idea of utilizing both the Option 1 and Option 2 logos for different purposes, as they have the same fonts and primary design elements.

Council member Joyce compiled results by placing them on a logo options board that had been prepared, and Option 1 was the clear winner having received all but two of the votes cast.

Weske added that he would like to see the Option 2 logo utilized in some places, such as the website or letterhead.

*A motion was made by Joyce, seconded by Miner, to approve Option 1 as the selection for the new City logo and to authorize the use of Option 2 as a secondary logo when appropriate. Ayes: all.*

### **Clarification of Long Lake Fire Department's Response Times**

Mayor Miner reported that at the May 22, 2023 Orono City Council meeting, there was a presentation of the Orono Fire Department needs assessment that was conducted by Orono Fire Chief Van Eyll. There was discussion during that review related to emergency response times and information was presented that the Station 2 response time was 16 minutes and for Station 1 it was 13 minutes and 49 seconds. A statement came up later during further discussion about the 16 minute response time and the example was raised of someone having a medical emergency and that it would take 16 minutes for the firefighters to respond. He explained that this response time allegation was quite different from the data that the Council had been presented with for years and referenced the 2022 LLFD Annual Report information, which was presented to both the Long Lake and the Orono City Council around January or February of 2023. He reviewed the average response time information of services to Long Lake as being 7:04 and Orono at 9:15; and discussed mutual aid and first unit average on-scene times. He stated that he wanted to make sure that accurate data for response times was available and noted that the information presented on May 22, 2023 did not correspond to the information that they had been provided by the Fire Department leadership in their annual report.

Council member Feldmann indicated that he and Battalion Chief Chris Adams had conducted a deeper dive into response time information. They were able to take event data and match it against payroll files to map out additional detail; and reviewed the data they compiled related to the very short and very long response times over the last 11 years, including information related to mutual aids/non-emergencies. When he heard the statement about 16 minute response times, he was concerned about the example at Orono's meeting of a situation where someone was having a medical emergency and that being how long they would have to wait for assistance, which he found alarming. In his analysis, he filtered out any event that was 20 minutes or longer in order to see what they were and every single one was mutual aid, non-emergency, or on Big Island. He reviewed spreadsheet data he had gathered and gave an explanation of what they found through their analysis. He reviewed a number of different scenarios for response time and shared a number of statistics, highlighting in particular that when it comes to emergency calls, Long Lake has a response time of 6.8 minutes, 7.87 for Orono, 8.4 minutes for Medina, 8.36 for Minnetonka Beach. Through their analysis, they are struggling to understand where any data that supports a 16 minute response time came from. He had attempted to various scenarios and factors to try to replicate the 16 minute response time that was quoted at the Orono City Council meeting, but had been unable to do so.

Chris Adams, Battalion Chief, clarified that first arrival on scene does not necessarily mean that the truck got there from Station 2.

Mayor Miner noted that it should be made clear that this data does not include the time from when the 911 call is placed to the County before it is dispatched.

Adams added that he also had 11 years of data that he was able to analyze. He had reviewed the selected data more closely for Station 2 response and all calls. He that over the 11 year period, the average emergency response time was 7.61 minutes, emergency changed to routine was 8.12 minutes, and non-emergency/routine was 10.5 minutes. In analyzing the data he did not find one scenario where the response time was 16 minutes.

Mayor Miner reflected that information referenced earlier was from former Fire Chief Van Eyll's annual reports that were presented to both the Long Lake and Orono City Council's showing overall average response times for all the cities back to 2015.

Adams mentioned that the time calculation was used in looking at this data is the same as what was used for the annual reports.

Mayor Miner thanked Council member Feldmann and Adams for doing a great job with a detailed review of these numbers. The Council felt it was important for the City to clarify actual response time data, as the numbers shared at Orono's meeting that had led people to be concerned that the Fire Department was taking 16 minutes on average for a response.

Council member Joyce commented that she feels the 'claim vs. fact' flyer that the City had posted should definitely be updated to add this information.

Council member Dyvik indicated that he felt the 16 minute response time statement was reckless and he believes that accurate information needs to be disseminated to the public. He added that the Orono needs assessment was filled with misleading information, but the response time statement was also an affront to the firefighters.

Mayor Miner suggested that the City put together a one page handout on the City's letterhead with a breakdown of the actual data as sort of a press release to be sent out via the City Listserv and for posting on the City's website. He noted would like to find a way for it to be disseminated to Orono residents as well who may have been at the meeting and heard this information shared, because the information they received was inaccurate. Mayor Miner emphasized that he does not want the statement that was made about 16 minute response times to create unnecessary fear in the community.

Moeller commented that it is important for the City to stand up on behalf of the Station 2 firefighters.

Mayor Miner agreed that an important part of getting accurate information out there is showing that those firefighters drop what they are doing and get there as quickly as they can, which was not reflected in the information shared by Orono.

### **Updates and Discussion Regarding Fire Department Matters**

Mayor Miner reported that the City had sent out a letter addressed to citizens served by the Long Lake Fire Department, members of the Long Lake Fire Department, and the Orono City Council. He summarized the contents of the letter and indicated that it was intended to share the City's direction for the Fire Department in the future and their continued desire for partnership with Orono, but also to state that the City is welcoming discussions with any neighboring cities or fire departments that may be interested in a partnership. He indicated he had attended a Fire Advisory Board meeting earlier in the day where they reviewed the draft 2024 budget.

Council member Dyvik pointed out information included in Orono's presentation where it was stated that the Station 2 response time was 16 minutes and that they didn't meet any of the NFPA response times for urban, suburban and rural categories. What has been shown in looking at the data tonight is that the Department is below the rural, suburban, and urban area times because average response time is less than 8 minutes.

Council member Joyce suggested that in the communication the City sends out, they may want to include the exact information from the slide that was used in the presentation by Orono.

### **Reschedule July 4, 2023 City Council Meeting**

Mayor Miner indicated that City Clerk Moeller was proposing that the Tuesday, July 4 City Council meetings be moved to Wednesday, July 5, 2023.

*A motion was made by Dyvik, seconded by Miner, to reschedule the July 4, 2023 City Council meetings to be held on July 5, 2023. Ayes: all.*

Council member Dyvik informed Council and staff that he would not be able to attend the July 18, 2023 City Council meeting.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

**Park Board Meeting** - Council member Joyce asked when the next Park Board meeting would be held. Moeller replied that Public Works Director Diercks was back from vacation, so they would be able to schedule a meeting in the near future.

#### **ADJOURN**

*Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting by general consent at 8:39 pm.*

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Weske  
City Administrator